

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03284 160930Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /067 W
-----086594 161109Z /23

R 160900Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7459
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3284

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NG
SUBJ: POSSIBLE NIGER DIPLOMATIC OVERTS IN CHAR/LIBYA DISPUTE

REF: A. NIAMEY 1383, B. NIAMEY 3283

1. DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE THIS MORNING,
HE CONFIRMED NIGER'S HEIGHTENED CONCERN ABOUT CHAD/LIBYA
PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT NIGER SHARES A BORDENWITH CHAD AND
REMINDED ME OF OUR CONVERSATION(REF A) ABOUT NIGER'S
EFFORTS TO QUIETLY PROVIDE PRIVATE FORUM FOR CHIEFS
OF STATE OF TWO ADVERSARIES DURING SAHARA SUMMIT
WHICH QUADAFI BOYCOTTED. HE STRESSED NIGERS WILLINGNESS
TO INTERVENE QTE TRES DISCRETEMENT UNQTE (QUOTING THE PRESIDED
AS REPORTED FEFTEL B) ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT A MEMBER OF A MEDIATING
COMMISSION. IN THIS CONTEXT HE MADQOXA PASSING REFERENCE TO KOUNOSHE'S
TRIP THIS WEEK TO SAUDI
ARABIA NOTING THAT HE HAD STOPPED IN NDJAMENA AND IN KHARTOUM
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TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH MALOUM AND NIMIERY. HE DID NOT
ELABORATE ON THE DISCUSSION, NOR DID HE COMMENT ON NATURE
OF DISCUSSIONS WITH KING IN JIDDA.

2. DJERMAKOYE DOES NOT THINK THAT LIBYA WOULD LAUNCH AN
ATTACK AGAINST NIGER BECAUSE NIGERR HAS TROOPS ALONG FRONTIER
AND ALSO BECAUSE ANY OVERT ACTION BY LIBYA WOULD BE

A QTE SERIOUS TACTICAL ERROR UNQTE SINCE CHAD'S COMPLAINT TO THE OAU CALLED WORLD ATTENTION TO LIBYA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH REBELS. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD THEN COMPLETE LCOYA'S ENCIRCLEMENT BY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS. THE CALCULATED EFFORT BY THE SAHEL TO DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE AND TO MASK THE PURPOSE OF KOUNTCH'S TRIP SERVES TO EMPHASIZE ITS IMPORTANCE. IT WAS SUDDEN AND BILLED AS QUTE SEMI-OFFICIAL UNQTE. HOWEVER, THE PRESS COVFNRENCE IN NDJAMENA SUGGESTED A SERIOUS PURPOSE TO THE TRIP (REFTEL B). HIS RETURN JULY 14 WAS SALUTED BY TUBLE SPREAD OF PHOTOS IN THE SAHEL SHOWING INTER ALIA POSED PHOTOS OF KOUNTCHE WITH MALOUM IN NDJAMENA, AND WITH NIMEIRY IN KHARTOUM. REPORTING ARTICLE FAILED TO MENTION THAT PRESIDENT HAD MADE THESE STOPS, BUT DID REPORT EXTENSIVELY ON ASSISTANCE THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS GIVING

NIGER AND ON RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE ASPECT OF JOURNEY.
3. PROVISION BY TOGO OF RELATIVELY SHORT RANGE FOKKER 28 AND SUDDENLY SCHEDULED VISIT SUNDAY (JULY 17 AND 18) AND MONDAY BY NIGERIA'S OBASANJO SUGGESTS THAT KOUNTCHE IS PLAYING HIS FAVORITE ROLE QTE TRES DISCRETEMENT UNQTE. JAMES

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